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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants: Yakov Kamen and Leon Shirman

Title: Use of Templates for Cost-Effective Secure Linking of Video Stream Objects

Serial No.: Unknown

Filed: Herewith

Continuation of: Ser. No. 09/417,991

Filed: 10/13/99

Examiner: T. Nguyen

Art Unit: 2773

Docket No.: isurfTV10

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Please amend the paragraph at page 1, lines 8-10, to read as follows:

This patent is a continuation in part of U.S. Patent Applications 09/389,916, 09/390,047 and 09/390,044, each filed September 3, 1999, each of which is incorporated herein by reference. This patent is also a continuation of U.S. Patent Application 09/417,991, filed October 13, 1999, which is also a continuation in part of the 09/389,916, 09/390,047 and 09/390,044 applications.

A copy of the above-mentioned paragraph showing the changes that have been made, is attached hereto as Attachment A.

Please amend the paragraph starting at page 8, line 21 and ending at page 9, line 6 as follows:

A1

As mentioned above, regions 4a to 4d form a template. Suppose the image on screen 2 is annotated with links corresponding to active regions 12 and 14. Region 12 is located within region 6 and outside regions 4a to 4d, and is activated e.g. by using cursor 8 to click on active region 12. Thus, a user can invoke the link associated with region 12 by using cursor 8 to click on region 12, even though the template is active. However, region 14 is located within region 4c. The template covers active area 14, and the link associated with area 14 cannot be invoked unless one removes the template (e.g. in a manner discussed below). Thus, if one moves cursor 8 to area 14 in an effort to invoke the link associated with area 14, one will only succeed in invoking the link associated with region 4c.

A copy of this paragraph, marked up to show the amendment being made, is attached hereto as part of Attachment A.

~~Please~~ amend the paragraph at page 11, lines 18-23 to read as follows:

A2

In one embodiment, the various templates can be activated, deactivated, and placed over one another by an external source, e.g. the source providing the image in region 6 of screen 2. As indicated above, this image can come from any of a number of places, e.g. a video broadcast using radio waves, optical cable or electrical cable. This image can originate from other sources as well, e.g. the internet. Thus, the provider of this image can determine which templates should be associated with the image at any given time.